

Facility Requirements to Minimize Spills

RR #636

DRY CLEANER ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE FUND PROGRAM

OCTOBER, 2003

The Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Fund (DERF) Program was established to help dry cleaners pay the cost of investigating and cleaning up contamination caused by the release of dry cleaning solvents. Many of the releases discovered at dry cleaning facilities are not new releases, but historical releases. These releases were often the result of the cleaning technology and handling practices used many years ago. Storage of filters, machine to machine transfer of saturated clothing, and spills from solvent deliveries could all have contributed to a release of solvents at a dry cleaning facility. Today, we have learned much about the hazards of the chemicals used in the dry cleaning processes, and modern equipment and safer handling practices have resulted in fewer releases to the environment and fewer exposures to workers. In fact, the average dry cleaner uses significantly less solvents to clean today's clothing than what was used even 5 years ago.

In order to ensure that we continue to reduce discharges at dry cleaning facilities, several important pollution prevention requirements were included in the DERF statute, sec. 292.65, Wis. Stats. and incorporated into the DERF rule, ch. NR 169, Wis. Adm. Code. This fact sheet summarizes the pollution prevention requirements of the DERF program, and also provides information on the Wisconsin Five Star Program, which celebrates dry cleaners who take extra measures to provide extra protection from environmental threats.

All Facility Requirements

Delivery of solvents: The safest technology for solvent delivery at this time is through a closed, direct-coupled system where there are minimal opportunities for releases of the chemical to the environment during the delivery process. An active dry cleaner applying for reimbursement of response action costs must certify at the time they submit their application that they employ a closed, direct-coupled delivery system for perchloroethylene used at their facility.



Waste management: All facilities seeking reimbursement from cleanup costs must document to the department that all wastes generated at the dry cleaning facility that contain dry cleaning solvent are managed in compliance with ch. 291, Stats., and 42 USC 6901 to 6991i.

Solvent discharges: In addition, all facilities seeking reimbursement for cleanup costs must also cease discharges of dry cleaning solvent or wastewater from dry cleaning machines into any sanitary sewer, storm sewers, septic tank or into the waters of this state.

Second Cleanups and Facilities constructed after to October 14, 1997

Dry cleaner facilities constructed on or before October 14, 1997 which have a new release 91 days or later from receiving a case closure from the DNR for a past cleanup and new facilities (those constructed after October 14, 1997) are both required to implement a number of pollution prevention measures to ensure that future releases are minimized. The pollution prevention requirements include:

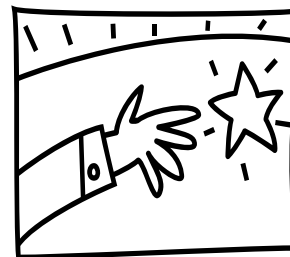
- * surrounding each machine or other piece of equipment in which dry cleaning solvent is used, or the entire area in which those machines or pieces of equipment are located, by a containment dike or other containment structure that is able to contain any leak, spill or other release of dry cleaning solvent from the machines or other pieces of equipment;
- * sealing or otherwise rendering the floor within any area surrounded by a dike or other containment structure impervious to dry cleaning solvent (dry cleaning machines with impervious containment pans designed to hold the amount of solvents contained in the largest tank on the machine meet this requirement);



This document may contain some information about certain state statutes and rules but does not necessarily include all of the details found in the statutes/rules. Readers should consult the actual language of the statutes/rules to answer specific questions

Wisconsin's Five Star Program

The five star program is one part of a program called the Pollution Prevention Partnership between the DNR, Wisconsin Fabricare Institute, UW - Extension, the Department of Commerce, and the Center for Neighborhood Technology. The five star program ranks participating dry cleaners on a scale of one to five stars (see box below). It is designed to help demonstrate to customers the commitment of a dry cleaner to be more environmentally friendly, and give recognition to drycleaners willing to do more than what is required by regulation to protect the environment. Stars are awarded on the following criteria with each step building on the previous star's requirements.



One Star



- ★Adopts the principles of the WI Drycleaners Project focusing on pollution prevention and regulatory compliance.
- ★Demonstrates compliance with environmental and workers health and safety regulations by operating consistently with the USEPA Plain English Guide for Perc Drycleaners; Regulatory Compliance for WI Drycleaners: Environmental Management Program published by WFI; or equivalent currently approved by WFI and or DNR.
- ★Strives to reduce the use of solvent, including maintaining and submitting records on solvent mileage.
- ★Participates in one technical fabricare training seminar or one environmental program per year.
- ★Complies with environmental regulations: including National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), file initial notification report, use licensed hazardous waste hauler, complete hazardous waste generator I.D. form and file all transportation manifests, and observe all hazardous waste storage, labeling, handling and accumulation regulations.
- ★Responds openly and honestly within a reasonable time frame to questions by neighbors/customers regarding solvent

Two Stars



- ★Qualifies as a One Star Drycleaner.
- ★Provides information on the Five Star Program.
- ★Participates in one technical fabric care and one environmental management program seminar annually.
- ★Has a written spill prevention policy and appropriate spill cleanup materials and response procedures in place.
- ★Complies with all appropriate regulations related to Hazardous Materials Act, Clean Air Act, OSHA Employee Hazard Communication Plan and Employee Training Program, SARA Title III and conducts appropriate employee training related to these regulations and maintains records.

Three Stars



- ★Qualifies as a Two Star Drycleaner.
- ★Recycles plastic garment bags and/or recycles or reuses hangers that are returned from customers.
- ★Uses recycled bags as requested by customer.
- ★Achieves a solvent mileage of 400 pounds per gallon of perchloroethylene, 70 pounds per gallon for petroleum and posts the percentage of wet cleaning done to serve as a replacement for traditional solvent cleaning.
- ★Annually attends one state or regional fabricare conference.
- ★Passes either IFI's or WFI's Certified Environmental Drycleaner exam.
- ★Conducts a regulatory self-compliance audit and submits results to WFI.

Four Stars



- ★Qualifies as a Three Star Drycleaner.
- ★Achieves a solvent mileage of 500 pounds per gallon of perchloroethylene, 80 pounds per gallon for petroleum, OR achieves at least 20 percent of wet cleaning as a replacement for traditional solvent cleaning and posts the information.
- ★Passes either IFI's or WFI's Certified Professional Drycleaner exam.

Five Stars



- ★Qualifies as a Four Star Drycleaner.
- ★Achieves a solvent mileage of 600 pounds/gallon for perc, 100 pounds/gallon of petroleum, OR achieves at least 25 % wet cleaning as a replacement for traditional solvent cleaning and posts the information.
- ★Demonstrates superior environmental performance and recognized by the Five Star Committee.
- ★Implements and maintains an employee health and safety air monitoring program.
- ★Conducts and passes a third party compliance audit.

For more information on the Five Star Program, contact the Wisconsin Fabricare Institute at (414) 529-4707 or their web site at www.wiscleaners.com. For more information on the Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Fund Program, including a copy of ch. NR 169 visit us at our Web site at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr or www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa.